

REMARKS

The invention, as claimed in independent claim 1, is directed to making a shaving razor handle by molding an inner core of a first plastic in opposed first mold cavities, molding an outer portion of a second plastic around the inner core in opposed second mold cavities, and molding at least one elastomeric grip portion on the outer portion at opposed third mold cavities. Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the inner core does not have any external surface portions. New independent claim 15 recites that the first and second plastics are made of the same composition and have the same appearance.

In the invention, as described in independent claims 1 and 15, a thick plastic portion of a shaving razor handle can be efficiently molded in two steps by reducing the amount and thickness of plastic that is injected and cured at one time. By injecting the plastic in two steps, the formation of the part is much quicker than it would be if the entire amount of plastic were injected in a single step. Quick curing can desirably provide for maintenance of a textured surface finish that might otherwise melt to a smooth surface with dissipation of heat from a thick molded part. New dependent claim 16 recites injecting the same clear plastic in the first and second shots, and new dependent claim 17 recites a textured surface on the outer portion of the second shot.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) on the basis of Wright in view of Boucherie, Moskovich, Meessmann, Burout, Gray, Miller and Yamada (JP).

Wright is cited for disclosure of molding a tooth brush handle in multiple molding steps including first molding a first plastic to provide both an interior spine and external surface stripes of a first material or color and thereafter molding a second plastic that fills in the gaps in the surface left by the first plastic. Wright is also cited for disclosure of two or more shots.

Miller, Gray and Burout are cited for disclosure of shaving razor handles with gripping portions. Meesmann, Moskovich and Boucherie are cited for disclosure of tooth brush handles with rigid plastic and softer material grips. Yamada is cited for disclosure of a multicolored handle made by a multiple shot method.

Wright's fundamental teaching is making an article with a multicolored surface pattern, and Wright emphasizes using different colors for the first and second shots. (See title and discussion at col. 1, lines 48-56, col. 2, lines 3-11, 17-42; and col. 3, lines 29-40). Wright thus stresses that the first plastic shot of the inner spine be the same plastic shot that provides stripes (or other patterns) at the external surface. This teaching is inconsistent with having an inner core that does not have any external surface portions, as required by claim 1.

The remaining references cited in the rejection do make up the deficiencies of Wright.

The references, taken alone or in combination, accordingly do not disclose or suggest the subject matter of claim 1, and claim 1 is allowable under 35 USC 103(a). Claims 2-11 depend on claim 1 and are allowable with it.

New independent claim 15 recites that the first and second plastics are made of the same composition and have the same appearance. This is the antithesis of the use of different colors to provide a pattern, as recited in Wright.

The remaining references cited in the rejection do make up the deficiency of Wright.

The references, taken alone or in combination, accordingly do not disclose or suggest the subject matter of claim 15, and claim 15 is allowable under 35 USC 103(a). Claims 16-17 depend on claim 15 and are allowable with it.

Attached is a marked-up version of the changes being made by the current amendment.

Applicant asks that all claims be allowed. Enclosed is a \$110 check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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William E. Booth
William E. Booth
Reg. No. 28,933

Fish & Richardson P.C.
225 Franklin Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02110-2804
Telephone: (617) 542-5070
Facsimile: (617) 542-8906

Version with markings to show changes made

In the claims:

Claims 12-14 has been cancelled.

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of making a shaving razor handle comprising

molding an inner core of a first plastic at opposed first mold cavities, said inner core providing a purely internal member without any external surface portions,

molding an outer portion of a second plastic around said inner core at opposed second mold cavities, said outer portion including first external surface portions,

molding at least one elastomeric grip portion on said outer portion at opposed third mold cavities, said elastomeric grip portion including second external surface portions, said handle having an external surface including said first and second external grip portions and not including said first plastic.